

# *Islamic Law and Modernity: Pakistan on Legal Crossroads*

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The heralds of the modernization of Islam, immediately after the inception of their movement realized that if they could change the legal and political framework of Islamic ideology it would immensely facilitate the envisioned change in the social, moral, and spiritual institutions of the Muslim society. Legal thinking and the political philosophy of the people tend to be more conservative in their subject matter. Therefore, if the modernists wanted to accomplish their objectives they had to formulate new legal outlook, and a different political theory to give new shape and form to a Muslim society that would be dynamic and in consonance with the realities of modern times.

In order to understand in fullness the implications of legal change as the part of the general process by the modernization of the religious ideology it is essential to make a synoptic survey of the efforts that have been made in this direction in South Asia during the past hundred and fifty years. This would furnish a pertinent historical perspective to a problem that has been so crucial to every effort that has been made to modernize the social and political framework of a Muslim society.

In India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh, the Muslim rule of nearly five hundred years was brought to an end by the British in 1858, when the last of the Mughals was sent in exile to Rangoon (Burma) and the subcontinent became a Crown colony. The British

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